



September 12, 2014

Weekly Report

A Highlight of Departmental Activities

The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the Directory list, department headings, icons and text in blue to be linked to more information.

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Airport

The Airport's AWOS (Automated Weather Observation System) went through its yearly inspection and passed with flying colors. The AWOS is used by pilots visiting Rutherford Airport to obtain current weather conditions on the FM frequency 118.275. It can also be dialed directly via telephone by dialing 828-287-6498 and is used in fuel price advertisement.

The airport's Stormwater NPDES General Permit was renewed this week.

Discussions began with the Economic Development Director about web-pages, advertisement, industrial development and tourism.

Airport Road improvements, as well as it's adjoining Oscar Justice Road, have been fully completed; asphalt paving, line painting, and side shoulder building are complete.

With the approach of fall and cooler weather just around the corner, animals and migratory birds begin to enjoy daily visits to the airport. Constant monitoring of the airport's taxi-ways and runway are essential for pilot safety.



Chris Roach spoke with a reporter from The Tryon Daily Bulletin who inquired about the airport's rise in traffic and fuel sales.

Board of Elections

The Board of Elections held voter registration drives for students at R-S Central, East Rutherford, Thomas Jefferson and Chase High Schools. Absentee Voting by mail has begun and 82 ballots have been issued at this point. Our staff took part in a webinar from the State Board on Handling Photo ID Requirements at Voting Sites and Absentee Training.

Clerk to the Board

County Commissioners held their regular meeting on Monday, September 8, 2014.

On Tuesday, staff attended a School of Government webinar regarding legislative updates designed to highlight the most significant pieces of legislation affecting local governments. Chairman Eckler attended an Isothermal Community College Board meeting also on Tuesday.

Commissioner Owens attended a weather station ribbon cutting on Wednesday and later attended the Regional Biofuels Educational Workshop at Isothermal Planning and Development Commission.

Chairman Eckler participated in the Chairman, Mayor, Managers' Meeting on Thursday. Staff attended a webinar entitled, "Saying "No" When Saying "No" Doesn't Seem Like an Option."

Commissioners attended the Transit Drive Appreciation Luncheon on Friday.

The Public Information Clerk processed four records and information requests. In the last seven months, nearly 50 requests have come through the Clerk's office. The form for requesting a public record and/or information (private research compilation) is located on the County website at <http://www.rutherfordcountync.gov/PublicInformation/PRRforPIPage> and can be emailed, faxed, hand delivered or mailed by way of USPS.

The PIC also assisted the Clerk to the Board with the minutes for the September 8 Commissioners' meeting; completed two board packets for existing Boards and Commissions; assisted Solid Waste in content development for an upcoming presentation; attended the joint Mayors' and Managers' meeting; and received one application to a board through the online portal.

We have a few vacant seats and terms ending for existing Board and Commission members. To apply, visit the Boards and Commissions page <http://www.rutherfordcountync.gov/Departments/governingbody/boardsandcommissions>, select the Apply Now button and follow the prompts. Through that online application, you can scroll down to the middle and find out which Boards and Commissions have vacancies. More information is currently being added to our system and will be available soon on the website.

Cooperative Extension

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff facilitated the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group meeting; met with the Extension & Community Association executive council; conducted a radio program; attended the Partnership for Children executive committee meeting; taught an estate planning workshop; and prepared for the national association meeting.



County Manager

The County Manager began Monday with a conference call regarding and ARC grant, followed by meetings with Solid Waste and Economic Development, a conference with a local business, meeting with the Board Chairman, Vice Chairman and County Attorney, and then the monthly Board of Commissioners Meeting. On Tuesday, he attended a legislative update from the School of Government, met with the Public Works and Planning Department Head, participated in two conference calls and attended the IPDC Board Meeting. Wednesday led with a meeting regarding the Southeastern EMS Station and Library, with subsequent meetings with a Tryon Daily Bulletin staff reporter, utility savings discussion, County Attorney and Transit Department. The week was wrapped up with the Rutherford Town Revitalization and Regional County Managers Meetings.

October 6	Board of County Commissioners Monthly Meeting	6 p.m.	County Office Building
November 3	Board of County Commissioners Monthly Meeting	6 p.m.	County Office Building
December 1	Board of County Commissioners Monthly Meeting	6 p.m.	County Office Building

Economic Development

The Executive Director presented an overview of economic development activities to the 2014 class of Leadership Rutherford; met with the EDC Marketing Subcommittee to evaluate the draft RFQ for website design; visited Facebook with the Project Administrator; attended the Applied Sciences Building Planning Meeting at Isothermal Community College; and presented an overview of economic development activities to the local leaders.

The Project Administrator networked with existing industry via phone calls and email, provided feedback and scheduled visits; met with existing industry to evaluate building reuse grant opportunities; and delivered Resource Guides to several businesses.

The Economic Development Assistant distributed the public notice, agenda and minutes for the upcoming EDC Board meeting; worked with the printer to finalize production of the Gateway West flyer; worked with the Revenue Department to verify assessed values and investment made for an existing grant; and worked with the Finance Department and NC Department of Commerce representative to complete a pay request.

The Part-Time Economic Development Assistant assisted the Executive Director with the development of presentation materials; researched pricing, created a cost breakdown, purchased supplies, and printed labels for the Gateway West Commerce Park flyer distribution; and continued work on the available buildings vs. prospect requests project.

Finance

The Director and Assistant Director attended the Commissioner Meeting Monday evening. The Director also attended a legislative update webinar sponsored by the School of Government. The Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings as follow-up to Monday's meeting. The Office continues working on fiscal year end close out. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Director responded to a fuel spill as a result of a tractor trailer accident; assisted Hudlow Fire Department with a vehicle fire; scheduled Incident Management training for first responders; worked on shelter identification; attended 9/11 memorial services; and attended various meetings.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome new hire Michelle Smith (Senior Center). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Christine McCormick (EMS). The Director met with Geri Weaver, Family Preservation Employment Specialist, attended a Local Government Legislative Update webinar, attended a NCDOT meeting regarding in Hickory regarding drug testing, and attended the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting. The HR Specialist attended the NCDOT meeting in Hickory and conducted new hire orientation. The 2015 United Way campaign will be kicking off soon. Thank you to all employees who helped with Relay. The County Relay team, won 2nd place for our campsite, 2nd place in the "best pie" contest (made by Robyn Ensley of the Revenue Department), and 3rd place for our T-shirt design. **BUT** we won first place in the knowledge we were all

Library

From the Director

The state report was submitted ahead of schedule. New records from the Genealogical Society Library were added to the CMC database and books for the October book sale are being sorted.

The Children's Librarian

Preschool Story Time began again on Tuesday, September 9. Rutherford County Library's Story Time will be each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m., Haynes Branch Library will meet every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., and Mountains Branch Library will begin that Thursday at 10:30 a.m. The first several weeks the children will be learning about frogs, toads, and tadpoles as an introduction to the Story Time mascot puppet—Froggy. The Youth Services Librarian spent 8 days in the Caribbean to prepare.

From the Reference Desk

Stephanie Long and April Young attended the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) Annual Conference thanks to a grant from the State Library of North Carolina. The conference was held in Tacoma, Washington from Thursday, September 4th until Saturday, September 6th. Stephanie attended sessions on creating connections in the community, building organizational capacity through fundraising and advocacy, communication in the workplace, using tablet computers in the library, employee appreciation, STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) programming, pursuing happiness, and effective marketing. She also attended presentations on expanding community in the library, reimagining the future of libraries, and using the Edge assessment tool, as well as a keynote speech by suspense author Laurie King.

From the Mountains Branch

Through funding provided by a grant from the State Library, April Young and Stephanie Long attended the ARSL conference in Tacoma, WA this week. ARSL stands for Association of Rural and Small Libraries. Wow! This conference was fabulous. The guest speakers were very insightful as to the direction public libraries should grow. Guest speaker Daniel W. Rasmus is a strategist and industry analyst who uses scenarios to analyze trends in society, technology, economics, the environment, and politics in order to discover implications used to develop and refine products, services and experiences. Another special speaker was suspense author Laurie King. King delivered an interesting speech about the evolution of print versus eBooks and the ways in which authors, publishing companies, libraries, and consumers are learning to adjust and relate to the changes. King supports libraries and pushes her publishing company to do more for the public sector. In addition to guest speakers, we were offered 3 mini-sessions each day with 8 class choices for each session. April attended *Building Makers: A Statewide Approach*, *Use Your Annual Statistics to Evaluate Your Library—Fast*, *Trustees: Your Greatest Assets*, *Flip the Script: Changing the Direction of Your Library*, *Get That Grant!*, and *Fundamentals of Fun: Getting the most from your workers*. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet other small town librarians from across the country. We shared and learned value tips for making our libraries the best libraries for our community.

Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department's garage completed over 13 repairs, 6 tire service calls, 14 preventative maintenance calls and 9 other requests.

Revenue

The Revenue Department office answered 553 phone calls and assisted 224 customers. We completed 3 plat reviews and 4 Data Requests. Appraisers completed 82 building permits and 157 field reviews. A total of 45 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 69 straits, 37 new accounts, 1 merge, 1 split, and 1 acreage adjustment. GIS created 6 new maps. The GIS website had 162,113 hits and 110,403 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 6 new addresses, and updated 88 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance completed maintenance on 10 road signs. The PUV program mailed 31 letters, and assisted 13 program members. Collection enforcement consisted of 2 bank drafts, 22 overpayments and 6 debt set-offs. Staff completed 8 gross receipts, processed 10,211 items mailed in and 12 bankruptcy issues. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 575 tax payments. 26 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Senior Center

Senior Center hosted the monthly blood pressure clinic on Monday. Representatives from Carolina Home Care conducted the Senior Center's monthly blood pressure checks and 53 clients took advantage of this service. The Center keeps blood pressure history cards on file and referrals are made when necessary. On Tuesday, Spindale Fire Chief Jamie Guillermo presented a program on "Emergency Preparedness". September is National Preparedness Month and Jamie discussed how we can take steps to prepare for all kinds of emergencies. Alexandra Lautenschaefer, Nutritionist from Rutherford Regional Health System, presented a program on "Better Breakfast". Eating breakfast every day is one of the best healthy habits you can do. Breakfast kick-starts the metabolism, and helps with weight management. Barbara Hill, Activity Coordinator, took a group of seniors to Hamrick's on Thursday for a day of shopping. Also on Thursday, Aaron Pruett and friends did a special performance of gospel music. On Friday, Opal Lowery came for a special musical and comedy performance and on Friday afternoon a group of seniors went to Sweet Frog's for frozen yogurt. Lastly the Center continues to stress health and wellness with our Zumba class and Square Dance Class. Our Square Dance Class is on Thursday's at 4:00 p.m. and Zumba class will be held on September 22 and 29 at 5:30 p.m. Square Dance class will be cancelled on Thursday, September 18th.

Social Services

The Department of Social Services office relocation has been completed and everyone is getting settled into their new offices. There are still some loose ends to tie up, and some remodeling is being completed in the main building to allow for a visitation room and conference space. Children's Services held staffing with the DSS attorney this week in preparation for court on Friday. The Director was in Raleigh this week attending committee meetings and the statewide Director's meeting. A campaign is underway to recruit more local foster parents in Rutherford County. In the coming weeks, you may begin to see information in various places, including in church bulletins, about upcoming events. Also, in the future a "Heart Gallery" will be created, which is a display of photographs and information about children that are available for adoption. If you have ever thought about the possibility of becoming a foster parent, explore it a little more and see if it is for you. For information about becoming a foster parent, contact Angela Black at DSS, 287-6295. The Department of Social Services Income Maintenance staff continue to plan for the further implementation of Medicaid in the NC FAST System. The hard launch for Medicaid will begin October 1. NC FAST conference calls and various trainings are held weekly.

Soil and Water

The Admin/Education Specialist worked on sending information for the Farm City Poster Contest, continued work on Conservation Field day registrations and plans, and continued work on the Ellenboro Fair display. The Ag. Cost share technician met with 1 land owner to write a new conservation plan, met with 1 land owner to sign contract, built folders for 3 approved contracts and attended pasture walk with Organic Valley.

Solid Waste

The landfill served 329 customers, hauled 42 loads from convenience centers, shipped 34 loads to Lenoir and sent out 2 recycling trailers. The landfill also had 31 tire customers. The Director attended the weekly meeting with Carl, attended a bio-fuels meeting at IPDC, met with David Odom and Bernie on the transfer station building and attended the Mayors Managers meeting. Staff continues to work with NCDENR on the recycling grant for this year. Also, the Director has been working with Jeff Bradley on possibly locating a pesticide collection container at the landfill. The landfill staff has been busy performing everyday job duties. Bush hogging at the south landfill has been completed. The landfill sent out a load of electronics to ERI to be recycled. Also the gas well monitoring was conducted this week by Shield Engineering. No code enforcement report due to vacation. Please remember to recycle!!!!



2014 Litter Sweep (Sept. 20 - Oct. 4)

Volunteers are needed to participate in the Governor's proclaimed LITTER SWEEP to remove litter from North Carolina's roadways. Help beautify your community by getting involved locally.

Participants are eligible to receive a certificate of appreciation and enter the Unusual Litter Contest for cash prizes. The 2014 Litter Sweep safety and promotional materials are available through the "Forms" link below.

About Litter Sweep:

Litter Sweep is a statewide roadside litter cleanup drive sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). It is usually scheduled for the last two weeks of April and September. The NCDOT Office of Beautification administers the spring and fall Litter Sweeps.

- Volunteers can obtain pick up supplies as orange trash bags, that are reversible to blue bags (for items to be recycled) and also have a drawstring for closure, orange safety vests and gloves from their respective local NCDOT county maintenance office.
- NCDOT maintenance crews devote one week of their time during Litter Sweep to pick up litter and collect orange bags from the roadsides once the groups have completed a cleanup.
- Everyone's participation in Litter Sweep is needed in order to clean up the increasing amount of roadside litter.

Tourism Development Authority

2014: The Game-Changer
*A Public Event for Rutherford County
& Its Tourism Industry*

Don't Miss This Milestone

Occasion Unveiling:

- * **Updated Rutherford County Tourism Logo**
- * **New Comprehensive Travel Guide**
- * **Re-Envisioned PR/Marketing Team**
 - * **TDA Annual Report**
- * **County Master Wayfinding Plan**

Tryon International Equestrian Center:

A Special Report

**Tourism Impact Study presented by
Chris Cavanaugh, Magellan Strategy Group
and**

**Featured Guest Mark Bellissimo,
founder of Tryon International Equestrian Center**

Date, Time & Location:

Thursday, September 25th

Presentation: 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Speaker Meet & Greet: 5:00 - 5:30 pm

**Foundation Performing Arts Center
Spindale, NC**

Presented by:

Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority

Monthly TDA staff meeting was held. Recognition was given to staff members for various achievements. Michelle Yelton, The McConnell Group Marketing, was present to give an overview of the upcoming “Game Changer” event that will take place later this month. Much planning took place for the “Game Changer” event. Flyers and postcards have been distributed with much interest. New travel guides were distributed to the Rutherford County Airport. New Tourism Asset Foundation staff person will lead weekend tours, and handle some TAF duties. Wayfinding activities involved researching the Shelby bypass, and the US221 priority.

Transportation Services

EMS personnel responded to 168 emergency calls and 41 convalescent calls. An administration meeting was held with staff to update personnel on new process for convalescent transport overflow with the rescue squads. Staff also worked on projections for the Southeast EMS station.

Transit drove 10,443 miles, completed 1,212 local trips and 74 out of county trips, transported 247 unduplicated passengers and collected \$16,626 in revenue. Staff attended Reasonable Suspicion Training (along with EMS and HR) and attended a training workshop with NCDOT. Staff also worked diligently to rework budget expenditures due to a reduction in state grant funds for the ROAP (Rural Operating Assistance Program) grant. Also, this week is Driver Appreciation Week. Breakfast has been prepared daily with a special lunch on Friday.



Veteran Services

The Veterans Services Office had 45 mail-ins, 107 facsimiles, 129 mail-outs, 105 telephone contacts, and 207 veteran contacts. Staff attended the MCL meeting on Tuesday. Lots of Veterans events are coming up in the next few months - please remember the men and women that made us free. The Toys for Tots box is out and ready to be filled up. If you need a toy to be picked up, please call the Veterans office at 287-6185.

Save the date of October 3 for a hot dog fundraiser.

County Commissioners

William Eckler, Chairman **Julius Owens**
Eddie Holland, Vice Chairman **Roger Richard**
Greg Lovelace

Carl Classen, County Manager
Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board
Richard Williams, County Attorney